



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Thomas J. McIntyre, et al.

Title of Invention: **METHOD OF FORMING INTERLAYER CONNECTIONS IN INTEGRATED OPTICAL CIRCUITS, AND DEVICES FORMED USING SAME**

Serial No.: 10/663,071

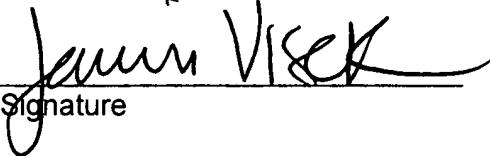
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Examiner/Art Unit: Ryan A. Lepisto/2883

Attorney Dkt. No.: BA-00590 (1763-13-3)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail and is addressed to Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 26th day of February, 2007.



Signature

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

In addition to the reasons set forth in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the undersigned would like to point out that the claims may be allowable for other reasons. Furthermore, with regard to the independent claims it is the combination of all the elements recited in each claim that is allowable.

While the combinations of elements recited in claims 2–14 are patentable, the undersigned would also like to point out that some or all of these individual elements may be broadened such that the resulting combination is still patentable. Applicants

may elect to pursue such claims, or to pursue claims directed to other aspects of the present invention through a divisional, continuation or reissue application, or through a reexamination proceeding, as is appropriate.

In the event additional fees are due as a result of this document, payment for those fees has been enclosed in the form of a check. Should further payment be required to cover such fees you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If the Examiner believes that a phone interview would be helpful, he is respectfully requested to contact the Applicant's attorney, Paul F. Rusyn, at (425) 455-5575.

DATED this 27th day of February, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Rusyn".

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